

ENVIRONMENTAL HEARINGS OFFICE

Minutes of Meeting July 17, 2009 9:00 a.m.

The July 2009 meeting was called to order by Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle in the Boards' office in Lacey, Washington. Present were Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle, Board Members Kathy Mix and William Lynch, Administrative Appeals Judge Kay Brown, Hearings Coordinator Debbie Joblonski, and Administrative Secretary Janet Buechler. Minutes of the June 2009 meeting were read and approved as corrected.

Handouts were distributed for review which included the pollution, shoreline, forest practice, hydraulic, and environmental and land use appeals filed, a brief summary of all cases that have closed and the Case Statistics Report. There was a short discussion on the number of open cases in comparison to previous years.

Appellate Update

Chair Andrea McNamara Doyle reported that there was one new Superior Court Appeal filed since the last meeting in June, *Concerned Neighbors for East Bay Drive v. City of Olympia, Mission Street Investors LLC and Ecology*.

Financial Update

Andrea reported that in addition to the 6% budget reductions imposed for EHO in the 2009-11 biennium, all state agencies are now being asked to reduce an additional 2% in both funding and FTEs. Efforts will be made to use the vacancy created by the departure of Administrative Appeals Judge Noble to manage the reductions.

EHO Policy

Kathy Mix presented the new Administrative Policy on both Records Retention and Public Records request. After discussion, both policies were adopted as modified. Kathy stated that training on the new Records Retention policy is in the process of being set up.

Facilities Issues

Andrea reported that we are still looking at lease options for the coming year and that EHO will need to submit a supplemental budget request for any new lease terms.

Additional Business

Kathy reported that the Natural Resources Subcabinet group is still in the initial stages of meeting and are proceeding on schedule.

Debbie reported that it is getting more difficult to find outside hearing rooms that do not charge for use of their space. She is continuing to develop a new list of places that will not charge the agency.

There was a discussion of putting dispositive or other significant orders on the website and it was decided that all of these orders would be posted on the website.

Meeting adjourned.

Janet Buechler
Administrative Secretary